New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service

INFEWS Workshop

Demonstrations and Hands-on Activities to Use AgTech for Salinity and Soil Moisture Management

When: **Thursday, March 26, 2026**
8:00 am – 3:45 pm

Where: **Leyendecker Plant Science Research Center**
7200 Plant Science Circle
La Mesa, NM 88044

Workshop Agenda and Speakers

7:45-8:00	**Registration, Sign In**
8:00-8:15	**Welcome, Moderator,** *Danise Coon*, NMSU-ACES
8:15-9:00	**Introduction to the NSF INFEWS Project. Improving crop yield and soil salinity, results & prospects**[1], *Miguel Acevedo, Breana Smithers*, University of North Texas
9:00-9:30	**Improving crop yield by using compost and irrigation water treatment by desalination and EMF**[1], *Subanky Suvendran*, NMSU-Engineering
9:30-10:00	**Improving growth and yield of faba beans and pinto beans in saline soils by improved water quality and compost treatment**[1], *Israel Joukhadar*, NMSU-ACES
10:00-10:15	**Break**
10:15-11:15	**Inexpensive open-source farm sensors**, *Brian Naughton*, Circle Two, LLC
11:15-11:45	**Managing soil and water salinity**, *April Ulery, Xiufen (Sophia) Li*, NMSU-ACES
11:45-12:30	**Lunch provided on-site**
12:30-1:00	**Agrivoltaics - hands-on activity**, *Greg Cooper*- NMSU-ACES
1:00-1:30	**Hydrogels demonstration**, *Miraj Paudel*, NMSU-ACES
1:30-2:15	**Use of drones / Integrating images for field management**[2], *Cesar Penzo-Jara, Atikul Hoque, and Michaela Buenemann*, NMSU-ACES and Geography
2:15-2:45	**Growsphere irrigation demonstration in field**[2], *Thanuja Athauda Arachchige*, NMSU-ACES
2:45-3:15	**Robotics demonstration in field soil analysis**[2], *Mahdi Haghshenas-Jaryani*, NMSU-Engineering

[1] **This work was supported by the National Science Foundation**
[2] **This work was supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture**